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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

## INFORMATION REPORT

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1. On 1 May 1949, the Merkator firm of Dresden-Weisser Hirsch, Lahmannring 3, which was owned by Theodor Kirpatsch, was reorganized into a separate procurement office (Realisierungskontor) for Wismut AG. It was later taken over directly by Wismut and all its employees were put on a straight salary basis. The Berlin office of the firm was at 15 Stühlingerstrasse, Berlin-Karlshorst and was directed by Kirpatsch's assistant, Erwin Schäfer. Wismut also maintained a Soviet staff in the Karlshorst compound. This staff was headed by Lt. Col. Sendak, Captain Zaikin, 1st Lt. Fakholodilov and an unidentified general who reportedly arrived in February 1950. This office was separate from the Stühlingerstrasse office which was outside the compound. The German staff of the Stühlingerstrasse office were forbidden to go to the SAG headquarters in Berlin-Weissensee.
2. The functions of the Stühlingerstrasse office consisted of taking care of all officials visiting Berlin from Wismut Headquarters in Stegner-Schönau, procuring various materials for Wismut, and establishing trade connections with Berlin firms, particularly those in West-Berlin. The office also served as a meeting place for Col. Georgi Vasilevich Salimov, Deputy Director and Chief of the Directorate of Material and Technical Supply (UMTO) of Wismut AG, and various businessmen from Vienna and West-Germany.
3. The Realisierungskontor was dissolved in October 1949, at which time Kirpatsch was placed in the Metals Section of the UMTO, under the direction of Captain Pronin. Kirpatsch was later made chief (Abteilungsleiter) of the office for construction materials within the UMTO, the only one in his position who was not a Russian officer.
4. The Metals Section of the UMTO was set up as follows:

Chief

Captain Pronin, who left Wismut on 1 January 1950. He was succeeded by an engineer named Marin, who remained as chief of the section for about two months. Marin was succeeded by Aleksandr Konstantinovich Smirnov, who later became chief of the UMTO after the disappearance of Col. Salimov in the spring of 1950.

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Deputy Chief

Major Goncherov, who reportedly held the same position in the spring of 1951.

Other personnel

First Lt. Kolosnikov.  
First Lt. Pashin.  
Two Russian secretaries, one of whom was named Myutina.  
Two Russian sergeants, who were changed frequently.

Valentin Knäffler, chief of German personnel, a member of the SED and an old Communist, who reportedly still occupies this position.  
One German secretary.  
Fourteen shipping clerks (Expedienten), each of whom was responsible for one particular type of item which he picked up from the factories and delivered by truck to one of Wismut AG's two warehouses at Chemnitz-Marthau or Schwarzenberg.

5. Following are the names of two of the West-Berlin firms with which the Wismut AG had dealings:

- a. "Continental" on Kurfürstendamm, a commission firm operated by a Belgian.
- b. Industrie-Bedarf, Berlin-Schmargendorf.\*\*

6. [REDACTED] the organization of the Wismut AG Headquarters prior to the reorganization caused by Salimanov's disappearance, was as follows:

Chief General Mikhail Mitrofanovich Maltsev

Chief of Personnel Lt. Col. Boranyuk, who was directly responsible to Maltsev.

There were four main departments under the direct jurisdiction of Maltsev. Source is familiar with only one of these, the Directorate of Material and Technical Supply, the former UMTO, which is now called the Fourth Administration. The UMTO was under the direction of Col. Salimanov and was located at Hoferstrasse 240, Siegmund-Schönau, in a building adjacent to the other departments of Wismut. Also directly responsible to Salimanov were the Berlin procurement office of Wismut and the central garage in Chemnitz, Schadestrasse. Deputies to Salimanov were:

a. Major Serbn Grigorevich Ashkinadze (for administration). The following sections were under his direction:

- 1) Secret section, headed by Mme Zatravkin, who had custody of the official Wismut seal and also made spot checks of the desks and work in progress of the German secretaries.
- 2) Personnel: Mme Lapina.

b. Ivan Vasilevich Semichev (for technical matters). He had charge of the following sections:

- 1) Planning: Barbinin.
- 2) Metals: Pronin, who was succeeded by Larin, who, in turn, was succeeded by Spirnov, whose successor is not known.
- 3) Chemicals and Fuels: Unknown.
- 4) Textiles: Andrei Avdeyevich Martynenko.
- 5) Electrical machines: Aleksandr Sergeyevich Lapin and Mr. - Maj. Pukainov.
- 6) Bookkeeping: Sergei Ivanovich Grishin.
- 7) Legal section: This section consisted only of a German lawyer, Dr. Grosse, reportedly a former Nazi, and his secretary. He checked all contracts pertaining to supply before they were concluded by Wismut AG.

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7. In the summer of 1950, [REDACTED] from a former Wismut colleague that, immediately after Col. Salimov's disappearance in the spring of 1950, Ashkinadze was arrested. Martynenko and Semichev were transferred, as were all other leading officials of Wismut. Kirpatsch was also arrested and was released around Christmas 1950. Erwin Schäfer, of the Berlin procurement office for Wismut, disappeared at the same time as Salimov. The Stühlingerstrasse office was closed and set up in another part of Karlshorst. It is under the direction of Josef Roat, who formerly worked in the Metals Section of the UMFO of Wismut in Siegnar-Schönau.

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[REDACTED] Comment: This is presumably the Continental Import and Export Company mbH, Berlin W 15, Kurfürstendamm 29, formerly Eisenhütten GmbH.

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\*\* [REDACTED] Comment: This is presumably the Industriebedarf GmbH, Berlin-Schmargendorf, Tälzerstrasse 21.

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